Seated Half Society Founded 2021

Half Crazy

Aug 2025
Issue No. 16

The Newsletter of the Seated Half Society

1855-S With Arrows

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1855-S With Arrows PCGS-67

Liberty Seated Collectors Club
Founded 1973

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

Uniting collectors of Liberty Seated coinage since 1973

Seated Half Society
Founded 2021

Half Crazy

The Newsletter of the

Seated Half Society

Aug 2025, Issue #16

Current Membership - **39**

1854-O With Arrows PCGS-67

Seated Half Society has 39 Members

In This Issue:

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SHS President's Letter

Dennis Fortier, SHS President

You may have noticed that we just welcomed our 39th member to the SHS recently. Who will be number 40 I wonder? Hopefully it won't be long in finding out.

As I stated in February, this year we will look into the lesser Seated Half collectors; the Type collector. For good or ill the nineteenth century type collector is a force to be reconned with. In this issue we look at the 1854-1855 Arrows-No Motto half dollar, this two year issue is a must have for type collectors as well as the series collector.

Bill Bugert has published his Register of 1849 Dramatically Doubled Date Liberty Seated Half Dollar, it can be found on the LSCC website. SHS Vice-President Verne Pitman wrote a brilliant review of Bill Bugert's 1849 DDD Register for this issue of Half Crazy. Bill is still looking for any more examples of that great die variety, and is now working on the 1873 No Arrows Open Three.

In this issue Kevin Flynn offers some interesting thoughts on the so-called 1847/6 that appeared in the summer issue of the Gobrecht Journal.

Finally, I offer my annual market analysis of the Seated Half Dollar market. Member thoughts are welcome for the November issue. Polite debate is always a healthy exercise; I don't claim to be all-knowing.

Special announcement: The Fourth Annual Gathering of the Seated Half Society will be held immediately following the Annual LSCC meeting at the ANA in Oklahoma City, August 21. *If you wish to become a member of the Seated Half Society, the ANA convention is an excellent opportunity to bring your collection and qualify.*

Dennis Fortier
SHS President

* * * * *

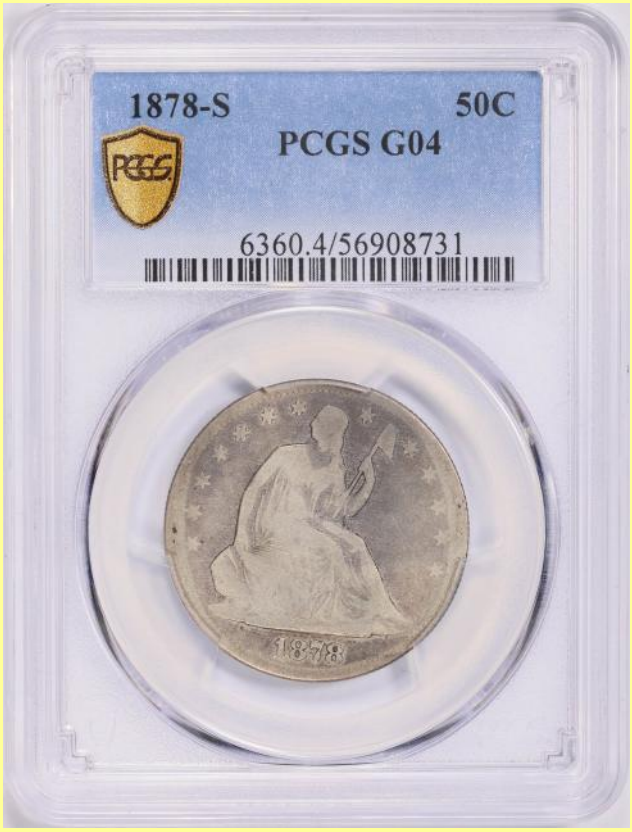
Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All LSCC members who qualify are welcome. We hope you will join our association and become a member of the Seated Half Society.

Dennis Fortier, SHS President
ricajun@msn.com

Verne Pitman SHS Vice-President
vwpitman@gmail.com

Also, see the club By-laws and Audit information, on the club webpage
http://lsccweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml

1878-S BB-49



In May, Great Collections sold an 1878-S that had not been seen for many years. This coin is listed in Bill Bugert's Register of 1878-S Half Dollars as BB-49 without photos. Well now we have photos for it. Bill's notes correspond perfectly to the diagnostics on the coin.

Brian Greer who handled the coin several years ago and remembers it well, said "the ware pattern on the edges are indicative of a bent and straitened coin. He believed the coin was slightly bent at one time but naturally , through circulation, flattened out so that the raw coin does not rock on a flat surface " He agrees with the problem-free grade of Good-4 for the coin.

Sold for $30,250

I hope the new owner is an LSCC member.

Feature Variety

1854 and 1855 With Arrows

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The With Arrows Liberty Seated Half Dollar type was made in 1854 and 1855. In 1854 it was made at the Philadelphia and New Orleans Mints, in 1855 it was made at the Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco Mints. Most are considered common with the exception of the 1855-P and the 1855-S. The 1855-P is something of a better date while the 1855-S is one of the great semi-keys of the series. Type collectors make the common dates somewhat over priced type coins for series collectors. The 1854-P and New Orleans minted coins have high mintages and many die Varieties. Bill Bugert's final Philadelphia Register with the 1854 and 1855 Philly's has not been published as yet.

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1855-O PCGS-66

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Feature Variety

1854 and 1855 With Arrows (Cont.)

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1855-S NGC Proof-65

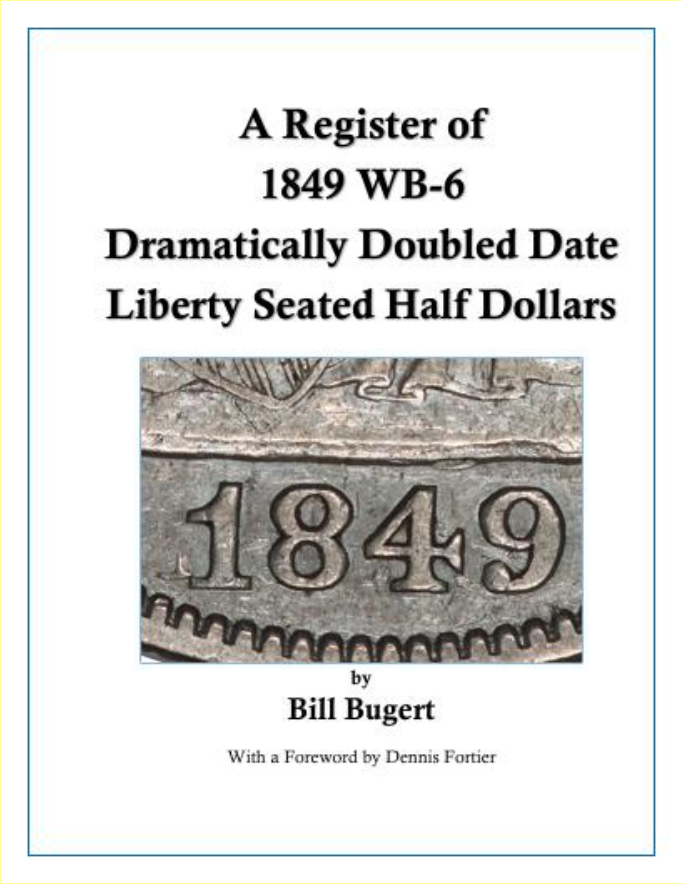
Sold in 2005 for $112,125 NGC-63, sold again in 2011 now in an NGC-65 holder for $276,000, sold again in 2013 for $170,375.

Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

According to Bill Bugert, (A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar San Francisco Branch Mint), **two, possibly three Branch Mint Proofs** were made for the First year of issue from the San Francisco Mint. The one pictured, and one in the Smithsonian. The third (?), Balderhofer sale of 1956 has not been seen since.

Date	Mintage	Die Varieties
1854	2,982,000	? TBA
1854-O	5,240,000	58
1855	759,500	? TBA
1855-O	3,688,000	19
1855-S	129,950	4 (All Rarity 5)

Review



A review of Bill Bugert's latest work:

A Register of 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date Liberty Seated Half Dollars

Verne Pitman, LSCC # 2467,
Vice President
Seated Half Society

I was asked to provide a review for Bill Bugert's most recent research summary of 1849 WB-6 dramatically double date liberty seated half dollars. As always, Bill's register will become (is) the most complete and comprehensive review of this variety and will now serve as the go-to reference for this coin. I could end the review right there and most liberty seated half collectors would get the picture, but lets take some time to dig into some of the aspects of this volume and provide some accolades as they are certainly warranted.

(Cont next page)

Review (cont)

If familiar with Bill's comprehensive registers of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, seasoned collectors of LSHs will know how to navigate and search this volume without issue. The format of the 1849 WB-6 register is consistent with the author's prior work of specific rarities; I'm thinking primarily of Bill's Register of 1878 S Liberty Seated Half Dollars with which I am fairly familiar.

Within the register, I find the section titled "miscellaneous" to be a very useful summary and setup to the register of individual coins that follows. Importantly it is acknowledged that this register is a work in progress as there are likely more examples to be reported, examined, confirmed and listed. Page 13 presents a table of specific coins where more information is needed. In my opinion, it is important for fellow collectors of the series to report these unknowns/unlisteds/more info required coins to Bill as a service to the hobby. This section also acknowledges that the data is only as reliable as the multiple sources from which the data was obtained. Included is a very transparent description of the data sources and how it was collected. Bill acknowledges where the facts are sparse and avoids becoming overly speculative.

Also within this up-front section are several useful figures and tables that summarize all data obtained to date. The distribution histogram that depicts the census of the 38 reported examples and the grade distribution amongst the coins is an extremely informative and useful summary.

Here, by displaying the distribution of grades among the 38 coins, the reader immediately realizes that this is an exceedingly rare variety, especially if one is in pursuit of a problem free coin. The distribution figure is followed by an equally useful table summary of the grade distribution amongst the various third-party grading services.

Review (cont)

Next is a summary listing of each coin by grade, service/slab I.D. and assigned BB number. I believe anyone who is considering an attempt to locate and acquire a certified example of this variety should match up their potential acquisition to the data within this listing.

Most importantly, before entering the meat of the registry of individual coins, the volume presents an illustration and description of the characteristics of a genuine 1849 dramatically doubled date WB-6 half dollar. This single page should be studied by all liberty seated half dollar collectors and memorized by anyone thinking of searching for an example of this elusive coin.

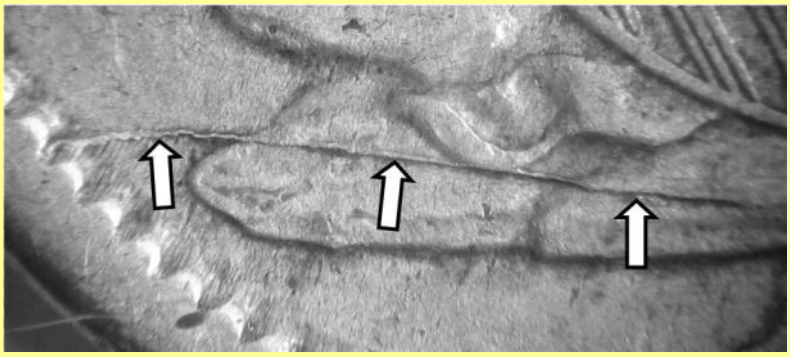
The census of the individual coins is comprised of one-page summaries for each of the 38 examples. Beginning with BB-1 and culminating with BB-38 each summary provides coin details and pictures (when available and accordingly attributed) that describe the specific characteristics of each. For each coin grade and certification details are provided. Attributes such as toning, rim cuds/dings, noticeable identifying marks are described. TPG service IDs are listed. Lastly, known pedigree details and prices realized when available are presented.

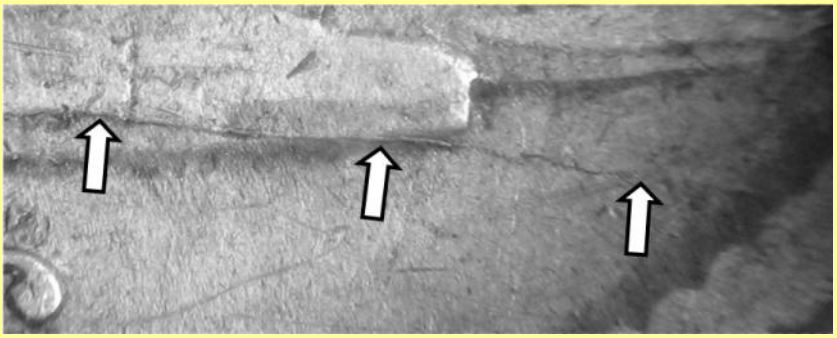
The register concludes with a section entitled “open leads and nondescript auction lots”. Here 9 leads are described with the hope that future information may lead to attribution to one of the 38 known WB-6 examples or to currently unlisted coins.

In summary, Bill Bugert’s latest work, “A Register of 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date Liberty Seated Half Dollars” provides a comprehensive summary of his extensive research of this variety. His long history of studying Liberty Seated Half Dollars, and his detailed knowledge of the WB-6 variety once again showcase his expertise in the area. Importantly, as noted in the forward by Dennis Fortier, the effort has enabled the re-listing of the variety in the Redbook. This singular outcome may increase awareness of the variety among other collectors and result in new leads to research for the coin. Well done Bill!

Can You Identify This Die Variety (challenge)

One member answered the question from the last issue of Half Crazy correctly, this is the 1875-CC WB-1. Here's this issues stumper!





Information Wanted!

By Bill Bugert

I am currently compiling information on examples of the 1849 WB-6 Dramatically Doubled Date and 1873 No Arrows Open 3 (both varieties) half dollars and am **seeking your assistance**. If you own either of these varieties and wish information on them included in my to-be-published Registers (similar to my 1878-S Register), please contact me at wb8cpy@earthlink.net. I am specifically looking for pedigree information, prices paid, and photographs. Please help!

To date and considering possible duplicate entries, I can account for approximately 38 different 1849 DDDs and 66 different 1873 NAOP3 half dollars. I believe there are others.

Date photos of these two major varieties are depicted below and detailed information is included in my books.

The 1849 DDD booklet is out but information is still needed if your coin is not in Bill Bugert's Register.

The 1847/6 Half Dollar is Really 1847/5

By Kevin Flynn

Originally Published in Kevin Flynn's Book and the Gobrecht Journal #153

1847/5

Cross Reference: WB102, FS-301 (004)

Description: Overdate 7/5

This variety was original called an 7/6 overdate, but it is actually the result of a 7/5. The bottom of a 5 is seen beneath the right side of the 4. The lower right side of the 6 and bottom curve of the 5 is seen in the field between the bottom right side of the 4 and the denticles. The base of a repunched 4 is seen in the field between the 8 and 4 halfway between the base of the normal digits and the denticles. The lower left base of a repunched 1 is seen to the left of the 1 between the bottom of the 1 and the denticles.

The 1847/6 Half Dollar is Really 1847/5
By Kevin Flynn (cont)

Die Markers:

Obverse - Die scratch from the top left star into the field.

Reverse - Die scratch from the bottom left of the H of HALF up through the leaves and UN of UNITED. Die crack from the rim to the U of UNITED. Die crack through the top of UNITED STATES O of OF. Die crack from the rim to the E of UNITED. Die crack through the top of F of F and AM of AMERICA to the rim. Die crack through the bottom of HALF DOL to the rim. Die cracks from the arrow tips to the rim.

Comments: Most photographs show just the base of the digit below the 4. The early die state specimen display part of the lower right side of the digit. You can clearly see the gradual increase in curvature on the right outside, long thin bottom, all of which matches the bottom of a 5 much better than on the 6. As seen in the bottom right photo, the overlay of the bottom of the 5 from an 1845 date matches for the shape and curvature almost perfectly on the lower right side of the remnants.

(Editor comments) Flynn might have something here.

The 1847/6 Half Dollar is Really 1847/5

By Kevin Flynn (cont) As seen in GJ #153

The 1847/6 Half Dollar is Really 1847/5

By Kevin Flynn

Editor's Note: This article duplicates an entry from Kevin Flynn's book. It describes a new discovery regarding an important Liberty Seated Half Dollar variety.

This variety was original called a 7/6 overdate, but it is actually the result of a 7/5. The bottom of a 5 is seen beneath the right side of the 4. The lower right side of the 6 and bottom curve of the 5 is seen in the field between the bottom right side of the 4 and the denticles. The base of a repunched 4 is seen in the field between the 8 and 4 half way between the base of the normal digits and the denticles. The lower left base of a repunched 1 is seen to the left of the 1 between the bottom of the 1 and the denticles.

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Feature Article

2025 Annual Liberty Seated Half Dollar Market Report

Here we are, yet another year gone by and it is time again for my annual market report. The last twelve months has seen some significant coins come to market with some interesting results. More on that later.

The overall market for seated halves continues to be very strong. As always, quality material remains sparce. Later Proofs and mint state material are prevalent at most major shows. Several dealers will have multiple dates in those grades. Collector grades (XF-AU) are few and far between.

Anything CAC approved is expensive and doesn't last long. As always problem coin are numerous. With the advent of CAC (whether you like CAC or not) problem coins go generally unwanted in our current market and prices reflect that. It is just the reality of the market. Discerning collectors want original coins, with a pleasing look, and are willing to pay up for them.

Low grade, Mint State, and Proof ultra-low mintages (1879-1890) are available in the market, however, collector grades remain largely elusive. Carson City prices are very strong, and some of the low mintage Carson City dates have been seen in the market as of late.

Lately we have seen some better dates at auction, 1842-O small dates, 1851's, 1852-O's, are a few examples. A few older members have come up to the club tables looking to sell. Perhaps (?) the anticipated aging out of long standing collectors has begun.

This year Bill Bugert has added to his library of Seated Half research and to our available knowledge. His 1849 Dramatically Doubled Date Register is now available on the LSCC website.

As I teased earlier in this report some significant coins have come to market in the last twelve months. Two 1878-S' at opposite ends of the spectrum sold at auction. A PCGS-4 having been bent and straitened in circulation sold for $30,250 and a NGC-65 sold for a very modest $144,000. These two sales continue the pattern of price squeezing for this much sought after issue. High end coins prices are soft while low end pieces are selling for strong prices so collectors can fill that massive hole.

One of only four known 1853-O No Arrows and Rays sold for a very strong price of $288,000. The coin was one of the two in Good-6. That should raise the market price for all four known pieces.

That's it for this year, happy hunting.

Dennis Fortier

All photos unless otherwise stated are from Heritage coin auctions

(100 points needed for membership in the Seated Half Society, see our webpage for details)

http://lsccweb.org/SHS-homepage.shtml

Request for Content

Any publication is only as good as the content it receives from its members. Articles, stories and photos are always welcome and encouraged! Please submit to the SHS Editor, Dennis Fortier at: **ricajun@msn.com**

Again, if you believe you qualify for membership, please contact Verne Pitman or myself to schedule an audit of your collection. All who qualify are welcome! We hope you will join our association and become a founding member of the Seated Half Society.

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